

From: [Spencer, L'Tonya](#)
To: [Fields, Annette](#)
Subject: FW: Westside Lead Doc
Date: Monday, September 23, 2019 5:04:41 PM
Attachments: [2019.8 Westside FAQs.docx](#)
[2019.8.26 Westside Lead Fact Sheet #3.FINAL.pdf](#)

FYI

From: Spencer, L'Tonya
Sent: Monday, September 23, 2019 5:04 PM
To: Hill, Franklin <Hill.Franklin@epa.gov>
Cc: Chaffins, Randall <Chaffins.Randall@epa.gov>
Subject: Westside Lead Doc

Good Afternoon,
Per your request, the Westside Lead documents are attached.
Thanks

Tonya

L'Tonya Spencer, Special Assistant
U.S. EPA – Region 4/ Superfund & Emergency Management Division/ 61 Forsyth St. SW/ Atlanta,
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404-562-8463 Office
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FAQs

Are there any impacts to drinking water? **Any potential soil contamination would not impact your drinking water. Please contact City of Atlanta Department of Watershed Management regarding drinking water concerns.**

Are the gardens impacted? **The community gardens sampled by EPA do not show elevated lead levels. EPA does not have a comprehensive list of gardens, so specific information may not be available.**

When did EPA first learn about the problem? **In 2018, while performing research, an Emory University student collected soil samples in Atlanta's Westside neighborhoods. The student provided a summary of the collected data to EPA. Additional research led to the discovery of slag on at least two lots around Elm Street and English Avenue. The slag is a potential source of at least some of the heavy metal contamination. The data from these samples showed elevated lead levels which warranted further investigation. In 2019, EPA began the Removal Site Evaluation (RSE) after being referred by Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPD).**

Can EPA share the data from the Emory student's study? **That data would be best gathered from Emory University.**

How and when will EPA's sampling be performed? **Sampling will consist of collecting small amounts of soil throughout your property. Sampling is usually performed within 10 business days of receiving signed access to your property.**

What are the results of the sampling EPA has performed thus far? **23 properties have been sampled in the area to date. Of those, 15 have elevated levels of lead soil contamination.**

Will additional properties be sampled? **Additional properties will need to be sampled to determine the extent of contamination.**

Does EPA plan to sample any schools? **EPA assisted Atlanta Public Schools with sampling one school near the investigation area. It did not show elevated levels of lead in soil. APS has been informed of the Agency's investigation. Please contact APS regarding sampling of any other schools in the study area.**

Can EPA sample my residence/property if it's outside the investigation area? **Currently, EPA is concentrating on sampling in the English Avenue neighborhood. You will be notified if the investigation expands to your specific area.**

Can I decline sampling if my residence/property is in the investigation area? **The sampling is voluntary, but EPA feels that it is essential that all properties in the area be sampled.**

Is there a cost to residents/property owners for sampling? **No.**

When should residents expect to receive results and how will they be shared? **Residents will receive results for their individual parcels via mail. Results should be available approximately 30 days after your property is sampled.**

What will EPA do next if contamination is detected? **If elevated lead levels are detected at your property, EPA will coordinate with you to determine necessary next steps, which could include excavation of contaminated soil from your yard.**

What are the health risks associated with exposure to soil contaminated with lead? **EPA has included a flyer which details possible health effects. Please refer to your physician or local health department for specific health risks.**

How can residents protect themselves? **EPA recommends you limit your direct exposure to the soil in your yard, make sure you and your family wash your hands and toys after playing in the yard, and remove shoes before entering the residence. More information and advice can be found at the Georgia Department of Health's website at <https://dph.georgia.gov/lead-education-and-faqs>**

Who should I go to get my blood lead tested? **Please refer to your physician or local health department for specific health risks.**

What does slag look like and what should I do if I see it in my yard? **Though slag may be a possible source of lead contamination, the presence of slag material does not automatically equate to high levels of lead in soil. Additionally, the lack of slag material in your yard does not necessarily mean that your yard does not have high levels of lead in your soil. Meanwhile, EPA recommends you limit your direct exposure to the soil in your yard, make sure you and your family wash your hands and toys after playing in the yard, and remove shoes before entering the residence. More information and advice can be found at the Georgia Department of Health's website at <https://dph.georgia.gov/lead-education-and-faqs>**

What funding mechanism is being used to handle this investigation?

Will EPA propose the site to the Superfund National Priorities List?

What about property values in the area? **Questions regarding property values should be directed to your real estate agent.**

Do I need to disclose the possible contamination if I sell my property in and/or near the investigation area? **Questions regarding property disclosure should be directed to your real estate agent.**

If elevated levels of lead are found in the area, will residents be relocated? **No relocation is anticipated for this project.**

Does EPA plan to host any public meetings (or availability) to provide more information? **EPA has a variety of ways to provide the public with ongoing information.**

A website has been created at www.epa.gov/superfund/westside-lead. Also, additional public meetings will be scheduled to keep residents informed as the study progresses. You may also contact Chuck Berry at 404-562-8278, or by e-mail at berry.chuck@epa.gov. You may also contact Terrence Byrd at 404-562-8755 or by e-mail at byrd.terrence@epa.gov. You may also contact Kerisa Coleman at 404-562-8831 or by email at coleman.kerisa@epa.gov.



U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Westside Lead Investigation

Atlanta, Georgia



Fact Sheet #3

August 2019

Introduction

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is investigating possible lead soil contamination in Atlanta's Westside neighborhoods. EPA is seeking permission to perform sampling at selected properties. More information for residents, homeowners and business owners is provided below.

Free Soil Sampling

EPA is offering soil testing **at no cost** to residents and property owners in a section of English Avenue encompassing 330 properties between Joseph E. Boone Blvd NW, Chestnut St NW, Cameron Alexander Blvd NW and the old CSX rail line (see map). Industrial and commercial properties will not be sampled under EPA's current project. The samples will be taken from outside the homes, and residents/property owners do not have to be present. Individual results will be kept confidential and shared directly with residents and property owners.

If the sampling indicates additional properties may be impacted, the study area will be expanded, as necessary. The results will determine what, if any, additional response actions are necessary to protect human health and the environment.

We Need Your Help to Test Your Soil for Lead

EPA is offering **FREE** soil lead testing for residents and property owners in the Westside study area.

If you are the renter or owner, please sign the attached form to give EPA permission to sample your yard.



*Map of the Westside study area.
Area may be expanded.*

What You Can Do

Read the letter and access authorization. Call any of the contacts listed below if you have questions about either document. Most importantly, **please sign the access authorization and return it by mail in the postage-paid envelope. You may also scan and e-mail the signed agreement to R4_Westside_Lead@epa.gov.**

We understand you may have questions about the possible contamination and what it means for you and your family. Residents and property owners are encouraged to reach out to the EPA contacts listed below to learn more. To limit you and your family's exposure to lead, please visit the Georgia Department of Health's website at <https://dph.georgia.gov/lead-education-and-fags>. This website lists simple steps you can take to reduce your lead exposure.

Background

In 2018, an Emory University doctoral student shared data with the EPA showing elevated lead levels collected from soil samples in Atlanta's Westside neighborhoods. Additional research by EPA led to the discovery of industrial smelting waste (slag) on at least two (2) lots near Elm Street. Though slag may be a possible source of lead contamination, the presence of slag material does not automatically equate to high levels of lead in soil. Sampling around the Elm Street area indicated lead levels above EPA's recommended residential level of 400 milligrams per kilogram, also known as "parts per million" (ppm) was present in some, but not all, locations. Sampling is required to determine the specific risk for your property and will be used to evaluate the appropriate next steps to protect public health and the environment.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

[www.epa.gov/
superfund/westside-lead](http://www.epa.gov/superfund/westside-lead)

or email us at
R4_Westside_Lead@epa.gov

CONTACTS

EPA On-Scene Coordinators

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